

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

/042 W

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R 202231Z MAY 75  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6497  
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, CA  
SUBJ: CLC REACTION TO QUEBEC GOVERNMENT-LABOR  
CONFRONTATION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (GLC)  
CONDEMNED CORRUPTION AMONG ITS QUEBEC AFFILIATES, BUT  
OPPOSED GOVERNMENT TRUSTEESHIP OF UNIONS OPTING INSTEAD  
FOR CREATION OF A GOVERNMENT APPOINTED SUPERVISORY  
COMMISSION TO OVERSEE UNION APPOINTED TRUSTEES. NATIONAL  
GLC LEADERSHIP RATHER POWERLESS VIS A VIS QUEBEC FEDERATION  
OF LABOR WHICH CONTROLS CONSTRUCTION TRADE UNIONS.  
U.S. BASED HEADQUARTERS OF FOUR UNIONS SCHEDULED FOR  
TRUSTEESHIPS ALSO LACK SUFFICIENT LEVERAGE TO CLEAN  
OUT CORRUPT ELEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. CLC SENT TELEGRAM TO QUEBEC PREMIER BOURASSA JUST  
PRIOR TO ENACTMENT OF ONE OF CLICHE COMMISSION  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO PLACE LOCAL 144 OF PLUMBERS, LOCAL 791  
OF OPERATING ENGINEERS, LOCAL 1677 OF ELECTRICAL  
WORKERS AND LOCAL 89 OF ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS UNDER  
TRUSTEESHIP. IN MESSAGE CLC CONDEMNED VIOLENCE,  
CORRUPTION AND ANARCHY AMONG SOME OF ITS QFL AFFILIATES  
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AND FORTHRIGHTLY NOTED THAT LABOR MOVEMENT CANNOT DISCLAIM

RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE IT LACKED VIGILANCE AND FORCEFULNESS  
"IN PROTECTING ITSELF FROM THIS CANCER." AFTER EXPRESSING  
ITS OPPOSITION TO ANY GOVERNMENT TRUSTEESHIP OF UNIONS AS  
A THREAT TO FREEDOM AND CIVIL LIBERTIES, CLC URGED THAT  
UNIONS BE ALLOWED TO CREATE OWN TURSTEESHIPS WHICH WOULD  
IN TURN BE SUPERVISED BY A GOVERNMENT APPOINTED COMMISSION  
TO ENSURE THAT UNIONS INVOLVED ARE CLEANED UP AND DEMOCRATIC  
CONTROL RETURNED TO MEMBERSHIPS.

3. COMMENT: CLC LEADERS BLAME QUEBEC GOVERNMENT AS MUCH  
AS GANSTER-INFILTRATION OF SOME UNIONS FOR CURRENT STATE  
OF AFFAIRS AS PORTRAYED BY CLICHE COMMISSION REPORT.  
SPECIFICALLY THEY CITE 1968 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LABOR  
RELATIONS ACT THAT DEPRIVED INDIVIDUAL CONSTRUCTION UNIONS  
OF THEIR BARGAINING RIGHTS AND ASSETS WHICH WERE GIVEN TO  
CENTRAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS (QFL AND CNTU). THUS, IN CLC'S  
VIEW PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH GAVE ENORMOUS POWER TO  
QUEBEC FEDERATION OF LABOR IN RETURN FOR POLITICAL  
CAMPAIGN SUPPORT OF LIBERAL PARTY, SHARES IN CORRUPTION  
AND LABOR STRIFE THAT HAS NOW BEEN WIDELY PUBLICIZED BY  
CLICHE COMMISSION. AGONIZING AS GOVERNMENT TRUSTEESHIP  
OF CORRUPT UNIONS WILL BE AND INEFFECTIVE AS IT MAY  
PROVE TO BE IN LONGER TERM, CLC AS WELL AS U.S. BASED  
INTERNATIONAL UNION HEADQUARTERS WOULD APPAR TO LACK  
SUFFICIENT LEVERAGE TO CLEAN UP CORRUPTION, SINCE CONTROL  
OF CONSTRUCTION UNIONS RESTS WITH QFL WHICH IS NOT  
INCLINED TO DIVEST ITSELF OF THE POWER IT ACCUMULATED IN  
RECENT YEARS.

4. CLC PRESIDENT MORRIS HAS ASKED QFL PRESIDENT LOUIS  
LABERGE TO ATTEND ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. IT REMAINS  
TO BE SEEN WHETHER LABERGE IS WILLING OR INDEED ABLE TO  
ABSENT HIMSELF DURING THIS TENSE PERIOD.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, CORRUPTION, GOVERNMENT REFORM, GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975OTTAWA01890  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750177-1015  
**From:** OTTAWA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750536/aaaabfwd.tel  
**Line Count:** 95  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CLC REACTION TO QUEBEC GOVERNMENT-LABOR CONFRONTATION  
**TAGS:** ELAB, CA, CLC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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